

Tinti, Elisa

From: Margot Lourdel <margot.lourdel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Mickens, Teryl
Cc: Pasti, Sara; Tierney, Michael; Scott-Childress, Reynolds; Edwards, Jeanne; Dennison, Bob; Andrews, Drew; Schabot, Steven; Hirsch, Michele; Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Public comment - Common Council 02/04/2025

Good morning Alderwoman Mickens,

HUDSON VALLEY POWER AUTHORITY ACT

I am a resident of Ward 5 and a dissatisfied customer of Central Hudson. I am writing in support of the memorializing resolution titled " RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK, CALLING UPON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS, AND GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL TO SIGN, THE HUDSON VALLEY POWER AUTHORITY ACT (A.10332/S.9s34 of 2024)."

Passing local resolutions is the key way to tell the Governor that Central Hudson ratepayers want this to happen, because on the other side, Central Hudson's parent company will be lobbying against it and likely to spend a lot of money.

Energy is a vital public resource, the lifeblood of our community and our economy. Just like private investment companies shouldn't own our roads, they shouldn't own our energy system either. The for-profit model makes it unnecessarily high. HVPA saves us money by accessing lower interest rates and tax-free bonds available to public corporations that are not available to for-profit corporations and cutting out the responsibility to make profits. Ratepayers shouldn't have to subsidize a higher cost of operation just to keep Central Hudson in business. In addition, corporate utilities like Central Hudson are a major obstacle to decarbonization. Even people who want to electrify are discouraged because of Central Hudson's poor record and have made the decision to stick to gas or oil for that reason. HVPA can and will prioritize investment in low-cost, climate-friendly initiatives.

Further, private utilities have a perverse incentive to increase rates by getting approval on unnecessary costly capital projects. A public entity can prioritize need vs. profit. In turn, HVPA's governance and oversight structure will be far more accountable to u and local electeds like you who are shut out of the process right now will have more of a say under HVPA's community oversight model. Finally, HVPA will empower Central Hudson workers and meet their needs

HVPA removes the tension between workers and ratepayers. Everything the workers need currently comes out of the ratepayers' pockets—wages, equipment, etc have to be approved and paid through the rate cases. This pits workers against ratepayers. Lower costs of operation and no profit motive would mean more flexibility to consider worker needs—include wages, benefits, training, and equipment—without going through a heated political spectacle of an unpopular rate case.

LACK OF PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY IN KINGSTON

I would also like to address the lack of pedestrian and cyclist safety in Kingston and request accountability for the death of community member Gary White who was hit and killed by a driver on December 27, 2024 on Broadway. The investigation into his death should be transparent, unlike what has been reported by the press and traffic safety advocates. I also urge the Common Council to support the creation of a Citizen Oversight Board for Traffic Incidents. This board would align with Vision Zero and

NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) principles, ensuring transparency, accountability, and community involvement. Such a board could review all fatal traffic incidents to ensure investigations are thorough and unbiased, suggest immediate actions to make the situation safer, and advocate for infrastructure improvements that prioritize safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users, and provide a platform for families of victims of traffic violence to voice concerns and contribute to shaping Kingston's safety policies.

The rising rate of pedestrian and cyclist fatalities in Kingston keeps rising and meaningful change is required in our community. As a pedestrian and a cyclist myself, I regularly fear for my safety on Kingston roads and while crossing streets.

Thank you for your time,
Margot Lourdel
Ward 5 (N Wilbur Ave)

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